

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A medical imaging marker, comprising:

a marking body, having a predetermined shape, the marking body including an at least partially radiopaque material selected from the group consisting of: silica; silicates; soda-lime glass; and leaded glass; and

an attachment substrate, on which the marking body is disposed, the attachment substrate including means for removably attaching the marker to a patient's body.

2. The marker of claim 1, wherein the marking body is formed of a nonmetallic material.

3. The marker of claim 1, wherein the marking body is formed of a nonleaded material.

4. The marker of claim 1, wherein the predetermined shape is a substantially spherical shape.

5. The marker of claim 1, wherein the marking body exhibits a visibly identifiable color which is associated with an operable characteristic of the marker.

6. The marker of claim 5, wherein the operable characteristic of the marker includes a characteristic selected from the group consisting of: a size of the marker; a radiopacity of the marker; a radiolucency of the marker; a type of medical imaging with which the marker will be used; and a biological structure which is to be marked by the marker.

7. A system of medical imaging markers having varying radiopaqueness, comprising:

at least two medical imaging markers, each marker including an at least partially radiopaque marking body disposed upon an attachment substrate;

each marking body exhibiting a visually identifiable color that is different from a visually identifiable color exhibited by another marking body; and

each marking body having an operable characteristic that is different from another marking body of the system.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the marking bodies of each imaging marker have substantially the same size and shape.

5 9. The system of claim 7, wherein the visually identifiable color exhibited by each marking body is one of a: primary; secondary; or tertiary color.

10. The system of claim 7, wherein the visibly identifiable color is associated with the operable characteristic of the marker.

10 11. The system of claim 7, wherein the operable characteristic of the marker includes a characteristic selected from the group consisting of: a size of the marking body; a radiopacity of the marker; a radiolucency of the marker; a type of medical imaging with which the marker will be used; and a biological structure which is to be marked by the marker.

12. A medical imaging marker, comprising:

15 a viscous carrier capable of application to a patient's body in a variety of patterns and application sizes; and

 a multiplicity of at least partially radiopaque particles disposed within and carried by the viscous carrier, the radiopaque particles providing an at least partially radiopaque characteristic to the viscous carrier.

13. The marker of claim 12, wherein the viscous carrier includes an adhesive material.

20 14. The marker of claim 12, wherein the viscous carrier is curable by contact with an atmospheric environment to facilitate curing of the viscous carrier into a semi-solid state.

15. The marker of claim 12, wherein the marking material is disposed upon a substrate, and the substrate is attachable to a patient's body.

16. The marker of claim 12, wherein the marking material is disposed between at least two substrates, one of the substrates being removable to facilitate application of the marking material to a patient's body, and the remaining substrate being configured to remain attached to the marking material to provide a protective cover over the marking material while applied to the patient's body.

17. A medical imaging marker, comprising:

a marking body, exhibiting a visibly identifiable color which is associated with an operable characteristic of the marker; and

an attachment substrate, on which the marking body is disposed, the attachment substrate including means for removably attaching the marker to a patient's body.

18. The marker of claim 17, wherein the operable characteristic of the marker includes a characteristic selected from the group consisting of: a size of the marking body; a radiopacity of the marker; a radiolucency of the marker; a type of medical imaging with which the marker will be used; and a biological structure which is to be marked by the marker.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein the visually identifiable color exhibited by each marking body is one of a: primary, secondary or tertiary color.

20. A medical imaging marker, comprising:

a carrier material capable of being formed in a predetermined shape;

a constituent material disposed within and carried by the carrier material, the constituent material having an operable characteristic associated therewith; and

an attachment substrate, on which the carrier material is disposed, the attachment substrate including means for removably attaching the marker to a patient's body.

21. The marker of claim 20, wherein the constituent material is selected from the group consisting of: silica; sodium oxide; calcium oxide; lead oxide; aluminum oxide; boric oxide; soda; and potash.

5 22. The marker of claim 20, wherein the predetermined shape is a substantially spherical shape.

23. The marker of claim 20, wherein the carrier material and constituent material cooperatively exhibit a visibly identifiable color which is associated with the operable characteristic of the marker.

10 24. The marker of claim 23, wherein the operable characteristic of the marker includes a characteristic selected from the group consisting of: a size of the marker; a radiopacity of the marker; a radiolucency of the marker; a type of medical imaging with which the marker will be used; and a biological structure which is to be marked by the marker.